

The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

Congratulations on your appointment to Chair the FCC. In your new leadership role, I urge you to support the "Fair Share Plan" as a solution to current concerns with the Universal Service Fund (USF). The Fair Share Plan will keep the USF fair, ensuring that consumers like me do not pay the same rate into the USF as big businesses, regardless of how little I may use long distance.

Here's where I start having a different opinion from the person who wrote this form letter.

I linked to this site from Tracfone.com.

The screaming banner headline reads: STOP THE FCC FROM TAXING YOU MORE Ok, so far so good. I pay too much in phone taxes anyway. Sometimes the taxes and such on my SBC landline phone bill are more than what I pay for long distance.

But then I read farther, in the normal sized print:

?The FCC (Federal Communications Commission) is considering increasing the Universal Service Fund tax that's charged to all wireless carriers. This change would mean that each TracFone customer could pay an extra \$1.00 or more per month.

As you know, TracFone airtime rates include all telecommunication taxes and fees. This increase would mean that our airtime rates would need to go up. Fees from the Universal Service Fund are used primarily to support the high cost of providing telephone services to rural areas.?

Here's the part that really grabbed my attention: Fees from the Universal Service Fund are used primarily to support the high cost of providing telephone services to rural areas.

I happen to live in a rural area and I'd be happy to pay and extra \$1.00 a month to have better wireless service. We disparately need more cell towers up here. There are so many dead spots. I use my cell phone to keep in touch with my son's school and for piece of mind when I'm traveling alone in my car. I really hope I never hit a deer on my way into town when I'm in one of those ?no signal? areas.

So if these new taxes are going to help rural Americans to enjoy the same piece of mind and personal security that our cousins in the urban areas have, please PLEASE increase the USF.

Thank you for your time, Shirley Penokie

Sincerely,

Shirley Penokie
4403 L.5 road
Escanaba, Michigan 49829

